

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): An immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor comprising an antibody to osteopontin or peptide fragment thereof.

Claim 2 (Original): The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the antibody to osteopontin or peptide fragment thereof is an antibody capable of inhibiting the binding between an integrin recognizing the site of amino acid sequence RGD and osteopontin or fragment thereof, and also inhibiting the binding between an integrin recognizing the site of amino acid sequence SVVYGLR and osteopontin or fragment thereof.

Claim 3 (Original): The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the osteopontin or peptide fragment thereof is an N-terminal fragment of osteopontin.

Claim 4 (Original): The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the osteopontin or peptide fragment thereof is a peptide that contains a peptide of the following (A):

(A) RGDSVVYGLR

Claim 5 (Original): The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the osteopontin or peptide fragment thereof is a peptide that contains a peptide of the following (B):

(B) VDTYDGRGDSVVYGLRS

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the immunocompetent cells are NKT cells.

Claim 7 (Original): The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to claim 6, wherein said inhibitor inhibits the IFN- γ production by NKT cells.

Claim 8 (Original): The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to claim 6, wherein said inhibitor inhibits the MIP-2 production by NKT cells.

Claim 9 (Original): The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to claim 6, wherein said inhibitor inhibits the IL-4 production by NKT cells.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the immunocompetent cells are neutrophils.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the immunocompetent cells are T cells.

Claim 12 (Original): The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to claim 11, wherein T cells are CD4⁺ T cells.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1, wherein said inhibitor inhibits Fas/FasL mediated cell injury.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1, wherein said inhibitor inhibits neutrophil mediated cell injury.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A therapeutic agent for diseases caused by activation of immunocompetent cells, comprising the immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor of ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1 as the active ingredient.

Claim 16 (Original): The therapeutic agent for diseases according to claim 15, wherein the immunocompetent cells are one or more types of immunocompetent cells selected from NKT cells, neutrophils and T cells.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The therapeutic agent for diseases according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~, wherein the diseases caused by activation of immunocompetent cells are selected from hepatitis, asthma, arthritis, diabetes, lupus, multiple sclerosis, arteriosclerosis and lung fibrosis.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A therapeutic agent for hepatopathy, comprising the immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor of ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1 as the active ingredient.

Claim 19 (Original): The therapeutic agent for hepatopathy according to claim 18, wherein the hepatopathy is viral hepatitis or drug-induced hepatitis.

Claim 20 (Original): The therapeutic agent for hepatopathy according to claim 18, wherein the hepatopathy is autoimmune hepatitis.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The therapeutic agent for hepatopathy according to ~~any one of claims 18 to 20~~ claim 18, wherein said inhibitor inhibits necrosis of hepatocytes.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A method for treatment of diseases caused by activation of immunocompetent cells, characterized in administering the therapeutic agent of ~~any one of claims 15 to 17~~ claim 15 to a patient.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A method for treatment of hepatopathy, characterized in administering the therapeutic agent for hepatopathy of ~~any one of claims 18 to 21~~ claim 18 to a patient.